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## VENEZUELA.

*Drought in the State of Zulia.*

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Maracaibo, June 30, 1899.*

Sir: I have the honor to report that the State of Zulia and the city of Maracaibo are again suffering with a water famine. In previous reports I have stated that we have no river nearer to Maracaibo than about 40 miles, and that the drinkable water is gathered into cisterns by the well-to-do people during the rainy season.

The water of the lake is not drinkable near and around Maracaibo, heavy southern winds having prevailed for long time. Since last year, September, we have had no rain. In January and February we should have had some. In March our rainy season should have begun, but up to to-day there is no sign that it will rain. We may be without it for months even should it come this year. The result is that our cisterns are all dry, and that the poor people will have to drink the brackish, unhealthy water of the lake, and in consequence many will die with bowel diseases.

Sweet water is already 25 cents the 4-gallon bucket, and will come up to 30 or 40 cents, as we have only a supply of a few weeks. Daily more troops of soldiers arrive, and 3,000 more are expected. Those poor fellows will have to drink the unhealthy water of the bay, and disease will follow.

Agriculture is in this year nil and the prices of everything are going up. The cattle on the plain are dying by the hundreds of thirst. This abnormal condition is unfortunately not confined to the western section of Venezuela but grave complaints come from the other states. The prospects for the future of this section of the Republic are rather gloomy with the perpetual revolutions, commercial crises, low coffee prices, scarcity of money, and severe drought.

Respectfully, yours,

E. H. PLUMACHER,  
*United States Consul.*

The honorable the ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

## FOREIGN STATISTICAL REPORTS.

AFRICA—*Cape Colony*.—January 1 to April 15, 1899. Estimated population, 1,252,347. Total number of deaths, 2,885, including diphtheria, 21; enteric fever, 121; measles, 24; whooping cough, 14, and 181 from phthisis pulmonalis.

*Cape Town*.—Month of May, 1899. Estimated population, 60,000. Total number of deaths, 143, including diphtheria, 5; enteric fever, 1; measles, 18; leprosy, 1, and 25 from phthisis pulmonalis.

AUSTRALIA—*New South Wales—Sydney*.—Month of May, 1899. Estimated population, 426,950. Total number of deaths, 496, including diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 11; whooping cough, 8, and 42 from phthisis pulmonalis.

CHINA—*Fuchau*.—Four weeks ended June 10, 1899. Estimated population, 1,000,000. Number of deaths not reported. Smallpox prevalent.

COLOMBIA—*Colon*.—Two weeks ended July 14, 1899. Estimated